WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for updating a configuration specification of a computer, the method
comprising the steps of:
   receiving an e-mail from an administrator containing location settings encoded in an
attachment;
   opening the attachment to the e-mail; and
   writing location values corresponding to the location settings encoded in the attachment
into the configuration specification of the computer.

2. A method as in claim 1,
   wherein the e-mail includes a designation of a location name corresponding to the
configuration specification; and
   wherein the configuration specification of the computer corresponds to the location name.

3. A method as in claim 1,
   wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of
operating systems.

4. A method as in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
   determining an operating system type for the computer; and
   generating the location values by interpreting the location settings for the operating
system type for the computer.

5. A method as in claim 4,
   wherein the interpreting step is performed by referring to program logic which translates
the location settings into location values as a function of the operating system type for the
computer.

6. A method as in claim 5,
   wherein the location settings specify internet settings.

1 7.   A method as in claim 7,

2   wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server

3 configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.

1 8.   A method as in claim 5, wherein the location settings specify dialing settings or local area

2 network settings.

1 9.   A method for providing a user's client computer with configuration settings, the method

2 comprising the steps of:

3   specifying a location name for the user's client computer;

4   specifying location settings corresponding to the location name;

5   creating an e-mail addressed to the user having the location settings encoded in an

6 attachment; and

7   sending the e-mail to the user.

1 10.   A method as in claim 9,

2   wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of

3 operating systems.

1 11.   A method as in claim 10,

2   wherein the location settings specify internet settings.

1 12.   A method as in claim 10,

2   wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server

3 configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.

1 13.   A method as in claim 10, wherein the location settings specify dialing settings or local area

2 network settings.

1 14. A computer readable storage medium, comprising:

2 computer readable program code embodied on said computer readable storage medium,

3 said computer readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for a

4 updating a configuration specification of a computer, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving an e-mail from an administrator containing location settings encoded in an

6 attachment;

7 opening the attachment to the e-mail; and

8 writing location values corresponding to the location settings encoded in the attachment

9 into the configuration specification of the computer.

1 15. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 14,

2 wherein the e-mail includes a designation of a location name corresponding to the

3 configuration specification; and

4 wherein the configuration specification of the computer corresponds to the location name.

1 16. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 14,

2 wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of

3 operating systems.

1 17. A computer readable storage medium as claim 16, the method further comprising the

2 steps of:

3 determining an operating system type for the computer; and

4 generating the location values by interpreting the location settings for the operating

5 system type for the computer.

1 18. A computer readable storage medium as in claim 19,

2 wherein the interpreting step is performed by referring to program logic which translates

3 the location settings into location values as a function of the operating system type for the

4 computer.

1   19.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18,

2   wherein the location settings specify internet settings.

1   20.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 20,

2   wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server

3   configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.

1   21.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 18, wherein the location settings specify

2   dialing settings or local area network settings.

1   22.   A computer readable storage medium, comprising:

2   computer readable program code embodied on said computer readable storage medium,

3   said computer readable program code for programming a computer to perform a method for

4   providing a user's client computer with configuration settings, the method comprising the steps

5   of:

6   specifying a location name for the user's client computer;

7   specifying location settings corresponding to the location name;

8   creating an e-mail addressed to the user having the location settings encoded in an

9   attachment; and

10   sending the e-mail to the user.

1   23.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 22,

2   wherein the location settings are generically defined so as to apply to a variety of

3   operating systems.

1   24.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23,

2   wherein the location settings specify internet settings.

1   25.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23,

2   wherein the location settings specify an internet protocol address, a domain name server

3   configuration, a gateway, and a WINS configuration.

1   26.   A computer readable storage medium as in claim 23, wherein the location settings specify

2   dialing settings or local area network settings.